

Regional Chair and Council
Region of York
17250 Yonge St,
Newmarket, ON
L3Y 6Z1

February 15, 2012

Re: Regional Council Agenda Item #2- Environmental Services Committee Report
Special Permit Application for King Valley Golf Club, King Township

The Concerned Citizens of King Township is concerned about the possible exemption to the tree cutting by-law for the King Valley Golf Club. King Township provides much of the Forest cover for York Region. Private landowners have traditionally understood the importance of maintaining trees for their ecological significance and contribution to a healthy environment. The significance of this exemption to cut down almost a total of one hectare of trees cannot be overstated. While the special permit application is for .63 hectare of trees to be cut, the ClubLink Corporation is planning to cut down an additional .3 hectare that doesn't require a special permit.

We ask the Region to look beyond the narrow interpretation of policies and take into consideration the vision and objectives York Region's Official Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. If York Region Council supports this application by ClubLink Corporation it may encourage other golf courses to follow the same practice.

York Region can continue to be a leader to forest conservation and natural heritage conservation a key tenet in the Sustainability Plan or it can choose to disrespect the volunteers and members of the community who have given many volunteer hours to plant trees and the many landowners who support tree preservation while improving the water quality and quantity in the Region of York. Tree removal that is not part of a managed forest plan seems archaic now that we are aware of the massive benefit of trees as part of living sustainability, including the importance of carbon removal, oxygen production, cooling and water conservation.

The ClubLink King Valley Golf Course is at the headwaters of Tannery Creek, which flows into Lake Simcoe. The Province has identified the importance of improving the quality of water in the Lake Simcoe watershed under the Lake Simcoe Protection Act. We are concerned that removing more trees in this area will further degrade the water quality and quantity of the creek.

We note that Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority identifies a number of issues, one of which is that a permit is required for those trees within their regulated area and that no tree cutting is to occur within 30 metres of the watercourse. It ask that assurances are given that these requirements are met before a final decision is made.

We recommend that the report be deferred and sent back to regional staff for further consideration and consultation with the public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Fiona Cowles, Chair
Concerned Citizens of King Township
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